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PAGE Editorial

## Fulbright's Record

William Fulbright's offer to "help the President find a way out of the Vietnam morass" by holding hearings on the administration's Vietnam policy is testimony to the senator's vast generosity and to his even larger sense of humor.

It does not, however, say much about his sense of drama.

Anyone with an authentic flair for showmanship would know that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee act is beginning to wear thin. Even now, some three weeks before the hearings are scheduled to open, the outline of the script can be safely predicted.

The chairman, peering over his half-glasses, will demand to know if the secretaries of state and defense have come around to the Fulbright foreign policy. Any evidence that the administration is thinking for itself will be greeted by an elaborate display of haughty impatience. Nor can the sup-

porting prayers be counted on for any surprises. The complaints and the arguments have become as familiar as the script of Hamlet, with none of that play's redeeming quality of genius.

The public has by now been made painfully aware of Fulbright's feelings about the war he once helped to escalate. Everyone can sympathize with any guilt feelings he may entertain as a result of his work in steering the Gulf of Tonkin resolution through the Senate. But everyone must be growing rather weary watching him work out his problems and frustrations in public.

We do not believe that any administration should be exempt from criticism on any subject at any time. But an encore of the unproductive, disputatious and boring Foreign Relations Committee sideshow is something the administration and the public as well could do without very nicely.